



September 2024

Henry, Mercer, Rock Island & Stark

Deadlines:

Sept. 15 - Secretary & Treasurer Books

Oct. 1 - County Award Apps

Nov. 1 - State Scholarships

Dec. 1 - Reenrollments

Events:

Sept. 9 - Stark Shotgun

Sept. 18 - State Experience Award Training

Oct. 1 - ZSuite Opens

Oct. 6-12 - National 4-H Week

Oct. 7 - State Scholarship Training

Nov. 2-3 - Jr Leadership Conference

Mercer Scholarship Winners






Congratulations to all the Mercer 4-H Youth who were awarded 4-H Memorial Scholarships in the spring.

Savannah McKay (far left) is a member of Joy-Eliza Ag. She plans to attend Eastern Iowa Community College this fall to major in Agribusiness Management.

Gabriella McPeek is a member of the Kimel 4-H Club. She will be attending either Monmouth or WIU to major in Elementary Education.

Kaitlyn DeBrock is a member of the Kimel 4-H Club. She is attending Iowa State University with a planned major in Ag Communications.

Luke Jungmann is a member of the Kimel 4-H Club. He is attending Iowa State University with a major in Agricultural Systems Technology.



Inside Insight:

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New Year Information

- Secretary and Treasurer books are due by **September 1 (Mercer) & September 15 (Henry, RI, Stark)**. If you have a club checking or savings account, a financial statement is **REQUIRED**. If this form is not submitted, your club will not be active in ZSuite for the new 4-H year.
- ZSuite will open around **October 1**. Reenrollments should be in by **December 1**. New enrollments are due by **March 1**.
- Reminder that the new 4-H year still technically begins Sept 1., so that is still the date for 4-H age.
- Meeting attendance requirements for exhibiting at the fair are:
4 Meetings— Henry/Stark
5 Meetings—Mercer & Rock Island

ZSUITE REMINDERS

- *Do not create a new account when reenrolling.
- *There is a new 'parent' option. If you are an adult that is not a screened leader, you can select this option. Parents do not need to put themselves in ZSuite, though.
- *Families with more than 3 kids will not be able to pay online until we apply a waiver.
- *You must be in ZSuite and have paid the program fee to be considered active.
- *Cloverbuds (ages 5-7) must select a Cloverbud club.
- *Always select the county of your *Club* NOT your county of residence—even when it asks for your county of residence.

Club News and Notes



Congratulations to everyone who showed at the State Fair general projects show on Friday, August 9. We had a great group of youth representing our counties. Each exhibit class gives out a champion, reserve and inspire award. A special shout-out goes to those who won one of those top awards.

Champion Award Winners:

Henry County:

Alexander Attig—Rock Hounds 2
Emily Boelens—Cooking 201
Claire Cardinal—Electricity 2
Hailey Olson—Tractor D
Dean Wannemacher—Robotics 1
Molly Wannemacher—Archery
Abigail Wolf—Food Decorating Master

Mercer County:

Griffin Burns—Wildlife 2
Reiley Burns—Animated Video
Jasmine Frerkes—Video Innovation
Zach Icenogle—Family Heritage

Rock Island County:

Chesnee Adams—Fiber, Ages 8-10
Maya Boehle—Weather 3
Olivia Boehle—Your Thoughts Matter
Bayly Bohnsack—Cooking 101
Charlie Edwards—Vegetable Gardening
Matthew Gorbach—Visual Arts: Glass
Alaina Heim—Woodworking 4
Kolbie Pettit—Beekeeping 1
Carter Tharp—Civic Engagement 3

Stark County:

Vada Edwards—Food Preservation
Logan Goerks—Wildlife 3

Attention 4-H Teens

Mercer County: The Mercer County Teen Federation will continue in the 2024-2025 year. The first meeting will be held in October. If you are interested in joining, please let Jennifer or Katie Erickson know. It is open to members age 12-18.

Teen Teachers & Leadership—We are working on bringing back a leadership group that will focus on teen teaching opportunities. This group will meet in the Milan office but is open to interested youth from any of our counties. Let Jennifer or Elaine know if you are interested.

Reserve Champion Award Winners:

Henry County:

Livvy Edmund—Entomology 3
Michael Gierach—Food Preservation
Ava Hakes—Scrapbooking Beginning
Olivia Krause—Civic Engagement 1
Matthew Krause—UAV Display
Connor Leuck—Leadership 1

Mercer County:

Sadie Bonyng—Photography 2
Colby Cox—Woodworking 4
Jayla Johnson—Floriculture A
Jaxon Kenney—Plastic Block Art
Jacob Kenney—Cooking 401
Rachel Shike—Clothing 1

Rock Island County:

Bailey Callahan—Civic Engagement 3
Sophie Souhrada—Cooking 201

Stark County:

Norah Rorem—Interior Design Intermediate
Kennedy Wall—Visual Arts: Paper 2D
Kellen Wall—Tractor C

Inspire Award Winners:

Henry County:

Mackenzie Peck—Corn
Kenneth Wolf—Health 1

Mercer County:

Seth Bennett—Passport to the World
Ingrid Hays—Floriculture C
Isabella Jaminet—Visual Arts: C/C/P B
Hailey McKeag—Cooking 101
Lily Miller—Cover Crops
Aysha Sloan—Visual Arts: Quilting

Rock Island County:

Freya Anthony—Beekeeping 1
Lily Bohnsack—Soybeans
Olivia Heick—Visual Arts: C/C/P A
Emma Steiger—Welding

Club News and Notes



Cambridge Champs Report Submitted by Jon Stevens

The Cambridge Champs June meeting started with the reading of the secretary and treasurer reports. In old business, we went over the fair book and discussed helping at the food stand. In new business, we discussed doing a Tanner's Apple Cider Donut fundraiser next year.

Talks were given by Josiah Hoste on entomology, Alena Hoste on sewing and Alexia Hoste on visual arts.



Stark County Century Clovers Submitted by Logan Goerks

The Stark County Century Clovers had their June meeting on Sunday, June 9th. Recognition was given to everyone who helped clean up the fairgrounds on Saturday, June 8th. There will be no meeting in July or August with the next meeting to be on Sunday, September 15.

Burns Boosters Report Submitted by Chloe Finch

The 2024 Henry County Fair was held in June. Members worked in the 4-H Food Stand. Thanks to all who came to help during the morning and afternoon shifts! A special thanks to Tim Wells and the Foundation for running the grill. See you Sept. 15 for the first meeting of the 2024-2025 year.



Rural Go-Getters Report Submitted by Riley Mackin

We started off with a regular meeting. Mason had a talk about pigs he bought with his dad. Kyson talked about pigs he showed at fair. Brooklyn had a talk about her chinchilla. Henry got first adjourn and Sawyer got second. The Hammerlink's brought refreshments. We worked on award applications.

Hamlet Handy Helpers Report Submitted by Zach Icenogle

The Hamlet Handy Helpers held their monthly meeting on June 9, 2024 at the Hamlet Hall. President, Mason Gray, called the meeting to order. Pledges were led by Isabelle Butler. The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and approved. The 4-H



BBQ is this Friday, June 14th at the Aledo Fire Station. Members are to be there at 6:45pm to help with clean up. Zach gave a demonstration on chickens, Megan gave a talk about sheep, Lillie gave a presentation on quilting and Isabelle gave a presentation on horse tack. Our club celebrated receiving the Club of the Year award by a pizza party sponsored by the Illinois State Extension office. Thank you so much! The meeting was adjourned. Good luck to everyone that is participating at the fair!

Request for Participants

"The Illinois State 4-H Influencer Team" is looking for 4-H'ers from our area to take part in videos this fall. Topics could include project areas, 4-H memories or promotions which support 4-H. Please contact Bailey Callahan (baileycallahan09@gmail.com) or Emma Steiger (emmasteiger653@gmail.com)



NEWS & notes

Club Information

AWARDS

Club Award - Due September 20

Club awards often go unclaimed due to lack of entries. This could be your club's time to get recognized for all the work you put in throughout the year. Return applications to your local office.

County Experience Awards - Due October 1

If you aren't quite ready for the state-level experience award, you can apply for the Bronze, Silver or Gold levels awarded locally. It is the same application, but follow the scoring rubric for the level in which you are applying. The tip sheet will still be helpful.

State Experience Awards - Due November 1

State awards are Diamond or Emerald level. Please use the tip sheet found on our website for help filling out the award application. These are due to your local office BEFORE November 1—follow individual county deadlines. If you'd like us to look them over prior to submission, please plan on getting them in at least a week in advance.

IL 4-H Scholarships - Due November 1

Open to youth ages 15-18. 5 \$1,000 scholarships available in each of 9 different categories. The categories are: Animal Science, Civic Engagement/Global Living, Creative Arts & Communication, Gardening/Agriculture/Food Access, Healthy Living, Natural Resources & Environmental Science, Personal Growth, and STEM/Robotics. A tutorial video on the application is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h0NVQVZ5oBQ>. Apply online at go.illinois.edu/4Hscholarships. Scholarship applications go directly to the State Office when submitted.

Note: Scholarship applications require 2 recommendation forms.

Sustaining the Future Award - Due January 31

Sponsored by Farm Bureau. Open to youth 17-19. Winners get to attend the Farm Bureau Premier 20 Conference. Full information on applying can be found here:

<https://form.jotform.com/201686303129149>

A link to all award applications and individual county deadlines can be found on our website:

<https://extension.illinois.edu/hmrs/4-h-programs>

Click on your county, scroll to the middle of the page and click on a box saying 4-H Awards & Recognition. There is also a document on ZSuite with this information.

Shotgun Club

The Stark County led shotgun program will run again this fall. It is open to all youth from our four counties.

Dates: September 9, 16 & 30

October 7, 14, 21 & 28

November 4

Location: Isaak Walton League at Baker Park in Kewanee

Time: 6:30 pm

Register here:

<https://registration.extension.illinois.edu/start/stark-county-4-h-shotgun-club>

There will be fees for clays and ammo.



State Shoots

Interested participants can register themselves for the state shoots via ZSuite events. You must have been enrolled in a 4-H shooting sports club during the 2023-2024 year and be 12 years of age to enter.

Archery—Saturday, September 21 @ Pekin Archers; 9 a.m.

Shotgun—Saturday, September 28 @ Brittany Shooting Park —Bunker Hill, IL. 9 a.m.

Rifle—Saturday, January 25, 2025 @ Central Illinois Precision Shooters in Bloomington —Bloomington, IL. 9 a.m.

For more information visit the state shooting sports page: <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/state-events/state-shoots>

How to Order Project Manuals

Project manuals are no longer ordered through the Extension Office. This is the link to order manuals:

<https://go.illinois.edu/ShopIL4H>

If you are unsure which manual to order, you can check the list in your new year packets (coming from leaders) or visit here:

<https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/ways-participate/projects>

If you have unused project manuals sitting at home that could be given to another 4-H member, please bring them to your local office.



NEWS & notes

Wrap-up and New Year

NEW THIS YEAR

Here are some minor changes coming to projects and manuals in the 2024-2025 year:

- Babysitting is replacing Child Development
- New under the Clothing & Textiles category
 - Costume Design
 - Clothing Embellishment
- Cooking is now called Foods
- New projects in the Foods Category:
 - Kitchen Boss
 - Science Fun with Dairy
 - Science Fun with Kitchen Chemistry
- Health 1, 2, & 3 no longer exist
- New projects under the Health heading:
 - Your Feelings Matter
 - Everyday Food & Fitness
 - Health Exploration & Innovation
 - Sports Nutrition—moved from foods

State Events

State Experience Award Training—September 18 @ 6pm
Recommended if you are planning to submit for Diamond or Emerald Level. Register via ZSuite by Sept. 15. Training will be held on Zoom.

State Scholarship Training—October 7 @ 6 pm via Zoom
Recommended if you are applying for a state scholarship, which is open to ages 15-18. Register on ZSuite by Oct. 5.

Junior Leadership Conference - November 2-3 in Springfield. Open to youth in grades 7-8. Registration will be open soon via ZSuite events.

Junior Livestock Conference - January 25-26 in Springfield. Open to youth in grades 7-9. Registration will be open later this year via ZSuite events.

State Public Speaking Contest - April 26, 2025

Hall of Fame



Congratulations to the wonderful volunteers who were inducted into the 2024 class of the Illinois 4-H Hall of Fame.

They are all valued members of the 4-H team and we appreciate all they've done for the youth of our area.

They were all recognized at the State Fair where they received their medallions.

You can read about each inductee's accomplishments on our Facebook posts

Chris Dobbels (above) was inducted from Henry County.

Phil Moran (right) is from Mercer County.

Mary Steiger (below left) was inducted from Rock Island.

Vicki Goerks (below right) was Stark's inductee.



HENRY, MERCER, ROCK ISLAND, & STARK UNIT

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Milan, IL 61264

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Henry/Stark Office

358 Front Street
Galva, IL 61434

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Mercer County Office

910 13th Street
Viola, IL 61486

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Galva Office Hours

Tuesday – Wednesday – Thursday

8 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

closed for lunch 12–12:30 p.m.

Viola Office Hours

Tuesday – Wednesday – Thursday

8 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

closed for lunch 12–12:30 p.m.

Milan Office Hours

Monday - Friday

8 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

closed for lunch 12–12:30 p.m.



Scribbles and Scrawl

This is not goodbye,
This is not farewell...

Tracy Pestle is retiring. Her last day is September 6. Tracy has been with 4-H the longest of anyone in our unit. Over the years, we have relied heavily on her knowledge and expertise. She always brought a lot of creativity and energy to the team—and to Mercer County. She built a strong 4-H program and has a legacy of successful 4-H alumni to show for all her hard work.

As a 4-H team, we have each benefitted from working with Tracy in different ways. There was a time when she and I (Jennifer) were the only two staff trying to cover all 4 counties. We kept each other sane through those years so that we could keep the 4-H programs going. To say I'm going to miss working with her is an understatement.

As much as we will miss her, we are all very excited for her to begin the next phase of her life—to focus on herself and enjoy spending time with her grandchildren. We also know this is not really goodbye. This is just “we’ll see you later.”

Thanks Tracy for all you’ve done for 4-H, for kids, for parents, for leaders, and for us. We are all better for having known and worked with you.

—Jennifer, Elaine, Kristen & Mel

Find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/4HHenryCounty?ref=hl>

<https://www.facebook.com/StarkCounty4H?ref=hl>

Find us on Twitter:

https://twitter.com/HMRS_Counties4H

HMRS Counties 4-H



State · County · Local Groups · United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating University of Illinois provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

Programs and activities sponsored by University of Illinois Extension are open to anyone. If a special accommodation must be addressed in order for any individual to participate, please contact Jenny Garner at 309-932-3447 in advance of the event.



ILLINOIS 4-H RECOGNITION

4-H Recognition Program

2023/24 Year

Deadlines & Information Mercer County



ILLINOIS 4-H RECOGNITION

| DEADLINE | AWARD | DETAILS |
|--------------------|---|---|
| September 1, 2024 | Officer Awards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding Club Secretary Outstanding Club Treasurer Outstanding Club Reporter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretary Book can be found here. The Treasures Book can be found here. Outstanding Club Reporter – Is selected by who submits the high number of club report to the 4-H Newsletter. |
| September 10, 2024 | Illinois 4-H Electricity Achievement Award | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application Download, complete and submit to office. All 4-H'ers enrolled in the 4-H Electricity Project are eligible to apply. You may not apply for this award if you have already received it. |
| September 20, 2024 | 4-H Club Excel Award 4-H Clubs which EXCEL in their work can compete for state honors in one (or more) of these 3 areas: Community Service, Leadership, Project Mastery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application (Scroll down to see the Excel Application at the bottom of the page and click EXCEL-Club Award.) Tutorial Video (This is helpful! Please watch!) |
| October 1, 2024 | 4-H Club of the Year Award | <i>Electronic submission</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application Write a short description of why your club should be considered for the Club of the Year Award! |
| October 1, 2024 | Outstanding Volunteer Awards | <i>Electronic submission</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application Calling all 4-H Members, Families, Alumni, and Community Members. If you know of an outstanding volunteer who needs to be recognized please fill out the application. |
| October 1, 2024 | Outstanding 4-H Growth Award | <i>Electronic submission</i> by Club Leader <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club Leaders (ONLY) nominate 4-H members ages 9 -13 as of September 1st. Leaders may nominate as many members as they would like but, final decision will be made by Extension staff if more than one nominee is submitted in the same area. (One winner per project area) Leaders, please fill out this application by clicking here. |



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| October 1, 2024 | Outstanding First Year 4-H Member Award | <p><i>Electronic submission</i> by 4-H member</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application • One boy and one girl are selected. • Applicants must be age 8 to 10 by Sept. 1 in the year they are applying for. • Do not include any Cloverbud materials in application |
| October 1, 2024 | Super 4-Her Award | <p><i>Electronic submission</i> by 4-H member</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application • Member must be age 8 to 18 by Sept. 1 in the year they are applying for. • Member must be enrolled in 4 different project categories. Example: Visual Arts, Robotics, Cooking, Woodworking • Member must exhibit 4 different project categories in 4-H Fair and/or other 4-H events. |
| October 1, 2024 | Emanuel Johnson Award | <p><i>Electronic submission</i> by Club Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club Leaders (ONLY) nominate individuals who have provided leadership to the club and county. • Nominees must be entering their junior or senior year of high school. • To nominate, the club Leaders write a short summary of the leadership the nominee provided for the club. • Leaders please fill out this application by clicking here. |
| October 1, 2024 | Marvin Kottman Award | <p><i>Electronic submission</i> by 4-H member</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application • Applicants must be entering or completing their senior year of high School. • Member must have been enrolled in agricultural projects such as Animal Sciences, Plant & Soil, Crop Sciences, Horticulture or Natural Resources. |
| October 1, 2024 | Livestock Record Book Award | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Print off your Z-Suite Record Book and submit to the Extension office. • Link to Z-Suite: https://4h.zsuite.org/ • If you did another format of Livestock Record Book please submit that to the office as well. |
| October 1, 2024 | 4-H Member Recognition for the 2023-2024 4-H year | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club Leaders (ONLY) nominate individuals for member recognition here. |



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| October 1, 2024 | I Dare You Award | <p><i>Electronic submission by 4-H member</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application • To apply for this award, you must be a 4-H member, 15 years of age and at least a high school freshman. • If selected for this award you have the opportunity to attend National Leadership Summer Conference in Shelby, Michigan. Check out this website to learn more about the conference. |
| October 1, 2024 | 4-H Experience Award | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application (Scroll down to “Illinois 4-H Experience Award for Individuals” under “Application Process” click “DOWNLOAD”.) Complete and submit to Extension office. • Tip Sheet (This is helpful! Please read!) |
| November 1, 2024 | <p>Illinois 4-H Scholarships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Science • Civic Engagement/Global Living • Creative Performing Arts & Communication • Food Systems • Healthy Living/Nutrition • Leadership • Natural Resources & Environmental Science • Personal Growth • STEM/Robotics | <p><i>Electronic Submission</i> by 4-H member</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application (Scroll down to “Illinois 4-H Scholarship” and find the link to apply under “Application”. One application for all areas that apply to you!) • Recommendation Form (Two of these will be needed. Please feel free to ask Extension staff.) • Tutorial Video |
| January 9, 2025 | <p>Sustaining the Future Award <i>(Former LCP Award- Rebranded by sponsor- Illinois Farm Bureau)</i></p> | <p><i>Electronic submission</i> by 4-H member</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application (Scroll down to “Illinois 4-H Sustaining the Future Award” and select the link to apply!) • Apply here: https://bit.ly/SustainFutureApp |
| April 1, 2025 | | State 4-H Recognition Event <i>(by invitation only)</i> |





Club Spotlight

Mercer County Federation

2023-2024

Meet the Federation members!



Members present for picture: Back row: Treasurer- Jocelynn, Front row: Reporter- Kate, Vice President - Savannah, Secretary- Addison, President -Mason.

Members not present: Delegate- Muireann, Delegate- Jasmine, Report -Reilley

Club Spotlight featuring Teen Federation

Meet the Federation members!

Hi! My name is Kate. I have been in 4-H for 7 years and Teen Federation for 3 years. I serve as one of the federation reporters. I have done so many different projects since I first joined, ranging from digital art to showing pigs. My favorite project is Visual Arts Mixed Media. I enjoy helping with the 4-H Cloverbud Academy, the Spaghetti Dinner, and 4-H BBQ.

My name is Savannah. I serve as president of the Joy-Eliza Ag 4-H group and vice president of the Mercer County Teen Federation. This is my 10th year in 4-H and my 5th year enrolled in Food Preservation. I really enjoy preserving food that I have grown and hope to make it into a business one day. Every year I look forward to the state and county fair. 4-H has sparked my passion for helping others.

My name is Addison, I serve as the secretary of the Teen Federation and the vice president of Hamlet Handy Helpers 4-H Club. My projects for the fair are rabbits and poultry, and some of the general projects I do are woodworking, canning, and photography. I hope to win with my ducks this year, and hopefully place top 3 overall in rabbits.

My name is Mason. This is my 8th year in 4-H. I am a member of Teen Federation, and my primary 4-H club is the Hamlet Handy Helpers. I am currently the President of Federation, and also my 4-H club. My projects include sheep and rabbits. I spend lots of hours preparing my livestock for the fair. Lambing season is my favorite time of year. I have learned leadership, management, and organizational skills through 4-H.

Jocelyn- Jocelyn lives on a horse farm with her parents. She is a member of the Saddle Teens 4-H Club and a first year member of Teen Federation. Jocelyn serves as the Teen Federation treasurer. Enjoys showing her sometimes moody mare Catie at the 4H horse show, and also raises and shows rabbits. Jocelyn is a member of the Mercer County Junior Horsebowl team, and the 4-H Archery club. In the future, she is interested in careers with agricultural studies.

Jasmine - This is her 6th year in 4-H, including 3 years as a cloverbud. She is the current President for Saddle Teens 4-H Club. At the county fair she shows Horses, goats and several general projects. Outside of the Fair she is also on the Mercer County Horse Bowl Jr. Team, Goat SPIN club, and Shooting Sports SPIN club. This is her 1st year as a Mercer County Teen Federation member.

Hi, my name is Reiley! This is my sixth year in 4-H. I am a member of the Kimel 4-H Club and the Teen Federation. I serve as one of the reporters for the Federation Club. I have done multiple 4-H projects such as horse riding, robotics, family heritage, and video. I also plan to show chickens this year. I have helped with 4-H events such as the annual Spaghetti Dinner, selling pork chops at Mercer Market, helping at the Cloverbud Academy, and delivering meals at the Mercer County Barbeque.

Muireann— Muireann who is a ninth grader at Sherrard High School. Muireann is a member of Hamlet Handy Helpers 4-H Club and the Teen Federation. She enjoys being involved with 4-H because it's not just about agriculture - you can do projects in art, history, science, and more. She has enjoyed getting involved within the community and helping better our county while meeting new people. She looks forward to improving herself and her projects each year at the Mercer County Fair.



Club Spotlight

Alexis All Stars

2023-2024



Peyton, Ella, Tempy, Reagan, Jayne
Jake, Rachel, Blair, Porter, Sawyer, Lily
Jayla, Lindsey, Peyton, Clay, Bella, Davin, Easton

Being a part of 4-H you teach youth to build self-esteem, and build character to take on responsibility, and project management. In the years of being in 4-H you meet wonderful families and make friends for a lifetime.

The Alexis All-Stars consists of 18 members and 2 leaders. We meet the 3rd Sunday of the month at the Alexis Community Center at 6:00pm . We participate in many projects including Pen Pals, Bake Sales, and making tie blankets for the Norwood Church. We encourage anyone interested in joining 4-H to reach out.



Club Spotlight

Joy-Eliza Ag

2023-2024



Pictured left to right: Kendall, Savannah, CJ, Aurora, Colby, Jake, Colton, Garrett, Hailey, Brady, Korbin, Tyler, Darrin.

Not pictured: Hannah, Keegan, Autumn, Lane, Kaylyn, Henna, Chloe, Josiah, Elsie & Phoebe

Hi, my name is Autumn. This is my 3rd year in 4-H. My projects this year are clay and photography. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my friends and family.

Hi, my name is Lane. This is my first year as a Cloverbud. I like being outside playing baseball, being with our dogs and horses and playing with friends.

My name is Colton and I am going to be a Junior this year at Rockridge High School. I am a member of the Joy-Eliza Ag 4-H Club where I hold the office of Reporter. I have had many different projects over the years from showing animals to various static projects. 4-H lets you learn all about different subjects from cooking to geology and showing animals like meat goats and rabbits. I have participated in many different spin clubs that gave me an opportunity to learn in a subject area such as rocketry that my parents weren't as familiar with. It is also a great place to meet new friends with similar interests and develop your leadership skills.

Joy-Eliza Ag Members, continued

Hi! My name is Brady Holmes and this is my 7th year in 4-H. This year for fair I will be showing my Black Hereford steer and 2 Simmental heifers. I will be participating in showmanship and the 4-H Livestock Auction also.

Hi! My name is Garrett Holmes and this is my 5th year in 4-H. This year I will be showing a crossbred steer at fair. I will also be participating in Showmanship and the 4-H Livestock Auction.

My name is Savannah. I serve as president of the Joy-Eliza Ag 4-H group and vice president of the Mercer County Teen Federation. This is my 10th year in 4-H and my 5th year enrolled in Food Preservation. I really enjoy preserving food that I have grown and hope to make it into a business one day. Every year I look forward to the state and county fairs. 4-H has sparked my passion for helping others.

My name is Korbin and I am 12 years old. This is my 5th year as a 4-H member. I love playing baseball and any outdoor activities. I enjoy projects can make out of wood and are used for interior design. I like helping at the community service events throughout the year.

My name is Kendall and my 4-H projects this year are Cooking 101 Cereal Bars and Clothing 1 Sewn Non-Clothing.

My name is CJ and my 4-H project this year is Woodworking 2 and Electricity 1.

My name is Aurora and my 4-H projects this year are Rabbits-Showmanship, Fancy Junior Buck, Fancy Junior Doe, Fancy Senior Buck, Fancy Senior Doe; Swine-Showmanship, Market Swine Barrows and Gilts, and Purebred Barrow.

My name is Colby and my 4-H project this year is Woodworking 4.

My name is Jake and my 4-H projects this year are Goats-Showmanship and Meat Wethers.

My name is Hailey and my 4-H projects this year are Visual Arts-Food Decorating, Paper 3D; Creative Writing, and Cooking 101 Cookies.

My name is Tyler and my 4-H projects this year is Meat Goat Kid Does.

My name is Darrin and my 4-H projects this year are Visual Arts Paper 3D, Cooking 201-Nut Bread, Food Preservation Pickles and Relishes, Vegetable Gardening Display.

My name is Hannah and my 4-H projects this year are Sheep-Spring Ewe Lamb, Market Sheep, Showmanship, Breeding Sheep-Crossbred, and Master Showmanship.

My name is Keegan and my 4-H projects this year are Rabbits-Showmanship, Fancy Junior Doe, Fancy Senior Doe; and Photography 1.

My name is Kaylyn and my 4-H projects this year are Rabbits-Commercial Meat Pen and Commercial Fryer; Horse and Pony-Senior Walk Trot, Novice Pleasure Horse, 6-year or older Horse/Western Pleasure, Open Ranch Horse Riding, Versatility Class, Barrel Race, Flag Race, Trot Pole Bending, Senior Egg and Spoon, Senior Ball in Bucket, Trail Class, Pattern Riding, Senior Western Horsemanship; Creative Writing; Cooking 301 Yeast Bread; Vegetable Plate; and Rabbit Showmanship.

My name is Henna and my 4-H projects this year are Horse-Junior Walk Trot, Novice Pleasure Horse, 6-year or older Horse/Western Pleasure, Trot Barrel Race, Flag Race, Senior Egg and Spoon, Junior Ball in Bucket, Trail Class; Visual Arts-Nature, Scrapbooking, Photography 1.

My name is Chloe and my 4-H projects this year are Rabbits-Commercial Meat Pen, Commercial Fryer, and Showmanship; Visual Arts-Food Decorating, Scrapbooking.

My name is Josiah and my 4-H projects this year are Rabbits-Commercial Meat Pen, Commercial Fryer, and Showmanship; Visual Arts-Clay, Woodworking 2.

My name is Elsie and my 4-H projects this year are Visual Arts-Food Decorating, Scrapbooking; Rabbits-Commercial Meat Pen, Commercial Fryer, and Showmanship.

My name is Phoebe and my 4-H projects this year is Cloverbud Exploring Farm Animals.

Club Spotlight

Saddle Teens

2023-2024



Pictured left to right is:

Front row: Brody Hampton, Marilyn Fritch, Hayden Hawk, Olivia Huber, Jasper Martin

Middle row: Anabel Fritch, Lily Miller, Paisley Martin, Ellie Hampton, Nolan Huber, Bridgette Vipond, Sebastian Huber

Back row: Colbie Parish, Andy Wehrheim, Lexi Wehrheim, Jocelyn Erickson, Jasmine Ferkles, Abby Atchison, Brooklynne Martin

Not pictured are:

Quinn Martin, Mackena Stickle, June Hunter, Brantley Hunter, Zoey Shafer, Nevaeh Tucker

Saddle Teens 4-H Club

Our 4-H year started in September 2023 with an election of officers: Jasmine Frerkes/President; Ellie Hampton/Vice-President; Jocelyn Erickson/Secretary; Paisley Martin/Treasurer; Abby Atchison/Parliamentarian & Reporter; Lily Miller & Jocelyn Erickson/Historians; Jocelyn Erickson & Jasmine Frerkes/Federation Delegates.

In October we had a window display at Bank Orion's Aledo Branch to celebrate National 4-H week. Our Cloverbuds decorated pumpkins for the residents of Marigold Village in Viola. Also, our members prepared 40 brown bag lunches for the farmers who were delivering their grain to Gavilon elevator in Viola; we included a "Start Seeing Farmers" bumper sticker donated by Mercer County Farm Bureau.

Our Club sponsored a community Halloween Party on October 28th.

Our Club's Achievement Program was held during our November meeting. Club members made Christmas ornaments for our Saddle Teens tree on display at the Festival of Trees.

Several members helped at the Veteran's Ball on November 4th held at the VFW in Aledo.

Our Club participated in the Unit's Food Drive Challenge by collecting over 500 cans of food.

A family pizza party was held at our December meeting. We also delivered gifts and groceries to our Christmas family.

Saddle Teens had two members participate in the County Public Speaking Contest on March 3rd.

We have a Jr. Horse Bowl and Hippology Team that participated in the Regional Contest on April 6th at BHE. Team members competing on the Mercer County Horse Bowl Team included: Jocelyn Erickson, Jasmine Frerkes, Paisley Martin, Lily Miller, and Brooklynn Martin. Bridgette Vipond and Abby Atchison also competed as individuals. All participants competed in Hippology. The Horse Bowl Team placed 1st and advanced to State competition (April 14th in Champaign). A few members also advanced to State competition as individuals for Hippology and State Horse Speeches (April 13th in Champaign). Jocelyn Erickson & Jasmine Frerkes received 1st Place for their Team Speech/Presentation at State. Mercer County Jr. Horse Bowl Team took 1st Place at State as well as several team members receiving placings for most individual questions answered.

Several members worked at the Federation spaghetti dinner on March 17th.

We have several members participating in the "Shooting Sports" Spin Club, the "Fishing" Spin Club, and the "Horse Riding Practice" Spin Club.

In April, our Club members purchased items and made Treat Bags for the Teachers and Staff at Winola Elementary School.

In May, we provided brown bag lunches for the drivers at Diamond Ag in Aledo.

Our Club will be in charge of the "dessert line" at the Mercer County 4-H BBQ on June 14th in Aledo.

Saddle Teens 4-H Club has 19 Members and 6 Cloverbuds for the 2023-2024 year.